

CIA Misdeeds Acknowledged

From Inquirer Wire Services



WILLIAM E. COLBY
... clearly wrong

NEWPORT, R. I. — CIA Director William Colby said yesterday that the CIA had involved itself in "some things which now are clearly wrong" but that he was attempting to change the cloak-and-dagger image of American spying.

"There is one problem of national security that we can clearly identify at this point," he said. "This is the future of American intelligence. American intelligence is important to our country. It is also the best in the world and American intelligence is in danger."

In Washington, meanwhile, Sen. Frank Church (D., Idaho) said the Senate Intelligence Committee, which he heads, hoped to make public the evidence on alleged CIA assassination plots by the end of July.

Church added that although no decision had been made by the full committee, he was personally opposed to holding televised hearings on assassination allegations.

"This would do the maximum injury to the country" by holding up "this whole sordid, story before the world," he said.

Church and vice chairman John Tower (R., Texas) indicated that the assassination evidence would be made public in the form of a report.

In a related development, Attorney General Edward H. Levi expects to decide soon whether to prosecute anyone for violations outlined in the Rockefeller Commission report.

Quoting Levi as saying, "I am shocked by some of the material," Justice Department public information officer Robert J. Havel said the attorney general was giving high priority to studying the report.

Colby told a three-day forum on national security at the Naval War College: "Intelligence has changed over the years. But one of the problems we face is that an agency with that kind of an enormous challenge and stimulation by the situation our country faced, and with the enormous support and encouragement of our political leadership, did make some mistakes. It did overstep its bounds. It did do some things which now are clearly wrong. There is no question about that."

People

CIA Director William Colby, whose agency is under fire from several congressional quarters, couldn't resist tossing a barb at one of his most vociferous critics yesterday during a speech at the Naval War College in Newport, R. I.

"It is a pleasure to be discussing intelligence to such a friendly looking audience—where the ladies don't wear hats," said Colby, obviously referring to Rep. Bella Abzug (D., N. Y.), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, whose broad-brimmed hats have become her trademark.